

PASSWORD STANDARDS FOR THE MAINFRAME

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The State of Utah's mainframe systems currently accept passwords of six to eight characters long, ten consecutive password attempts, and supervisory passwords that vary according to the mandates of each agency.

In order to meet rigid mandates of the new HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) and other Federal audit requirements, some State of Utah mainframe password standards will be changed.

For further information see the ITS Password Policy at:

<http://its.innerweb.state.ut.us/websoft/policiesprocedures/pppages/password.shtml>.

In order for ITS to implement this policy, the following changes will be made to the State of Utah mainframe system options:

1. Users with security privileges (RACF Special and Group Special) must change their password every forty-five days.
2. Passwords must be eight characters long and must have at least one alpha and one numeric/national character.
3. After three consecutive invalid password attempts a user ID will be revoked.
4. Passwords expire every eighty-nine days. There will be a two-week warning message before the old password expires.

All changes will be implemented by February 14, 2004.

Questions about this bulletin can be emailed to dsecurity@utah.gov.